



George Stephenson High School

September 6, 2024

“96% of GSHS students got into their first-choice university”

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families have had a good summer – It is a pleasure to welcome all our students back to school and in particular to meet our new Year 7s. For those new to the school this is the first of a fortnightly update to keep you up to date on any school issues, celebrate success and provide you with information on the many great things happening at GSHS.

I have worked at George Stephenson High School for 15 years and am incredibly proud of this school and particularly seeing the success of our young people after they leave. As a staff body working together with parents, we are driven by the same desire to do the best for all of our students. To stretch them at all levels, support them academically and personally but also to develop a sense of purpose and pride in themselves, the school and our community.

We are lucky to have an excellent school and the many comments I receive from you as parents are incredibly supportive and demonstrate that pride in our school. We are never complacent though and are always looking to improve. This is your and our children’s school We are 100% inclusive and will always drive to be our best.



Once again, we were really pleased with the results over the summer. Our students did fantastically and were really pleased with their results. It was great to see so many happy faces. An amazing 96% of our students managed to get into their first-choice university which is significantly above the national average and a testament not only to the hard work of the teachers but the guidance and support they receive. The classes of 2024 have been a credit to themselves and the school.

The school has had a great atmosphere this week. Students have quickly got used to the earlier start and how they look is exceptional. Our new Year 7s have made an excellent impression, looked smart in their new uniforms, adapted well to new routines and have been very polite and enthusiastic. I am certain they will continue to enjoy their time at George Stephenson whilst working hard and being ambassadors for our school.

In order to ensure success, it goes without saying that we need students to be here. Setting up these habits and expectations at the start of the year are important. Thank you for developing a resilience in our young people which means most students have excellent attendance. Please keep this up.

Evidence shows that good habits around attendance that are developed at the start of the year, especially in Year 7, have a significant impact on how well they attend for the rest of the year and their subsequent enjoyment and success in school.

If you have any problems or need any help at all please always contact the school or your child's guidance manager at the earliest opportunity. This will help ensure your child receives the best possible educational experience and will enable us support you and their wellbeing. We must all be ambitious for our young people, and this starts at home.

At the start of the year, it is worth a reminder of our core values as decided by all members of the school community. These are **Ambition**, **Respect** and **Community** which underpin our development plans. We will always strive to be a fully inclusive, caring and ambitious school at the heart of the local community providing the best possible education for all.

In as far as ambition and community can be exemplified, I would like to wish the best of luck to anyone involved in any of the Great North Run events this weekend. I am lucky to be involved for the 12th time as it is always such an inspiration to be a part of.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable and successful year and look forward to seeing you at George Stephenson High School soon.

Best wishes,



Mr. P. Douthwaite
Headteacher

Student support and safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mrs Louise Dunn
Deputy Safeguarding Leaders Mr Alex Lunn
SENDCo: Mrs Rebecca Bennett

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time.
You can contact us via the main office (phone) or by email enquiries@gshs.org.uk
For queries regarding attendance or absence, please email absence@gshs.org.uk

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